

2SSB 5179 - S AMD 79

By Senator Van De Wege

NOT ADOPTED 03/06/2017

1 On page 2, line 20 after "void." Insert the following:

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3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 48.43
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Each health benefit plan entered into, or renewed on or
6 after January 1, 2018, shall include coverage for hearing aids for
7 children under the age of eighteen when medically necessary.
8 Coverage must include a new hearing aid every five years, a new
9 hearing aid when alterations to the existing hearing aid cannot meet
10 the needs of the child, and services and supplies such as the
11 initial assessment, fitting, adjustment, and auditory training.

12 (2) For purposes of this section, "hearing aid" or "hearing
13 instrument" has the same meaning as in RCW 18.35.010.

14 (3) The hearing aid must be recommended by a licensed
15 audiologist or hearing aid specialist and dispensed by a licensed
16 audiologist or hearing aid specialist."

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20 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "requiring", insert
21 "coverage for hearing instruments; adding a new section to chapter
22 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; adding a new
section to chapter 48.43 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT:

- Adds a requirement that regulated health benefit plans include coverage for hearing aids for children under the age of 18

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